Force personnel were arrested by CBI in July, 2001. On the basis of information furnished by the CBI, inquiry/disciplinary proceedings have been initiated.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Departmental Security Instructions on handling protected information have been issued from time to time in order to ensure security of protected documents and information. Periodical and surprise security checks are carried out to ensure strict compliance of the security instructions.

Meeting between US Ambassador and Indian Chief of Naval Staff

1712. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a week after September 11 events the US Ambassador in India Mr. Robert Blackwill had meeting with the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sushil Kumar to discuss how the Indian Armed Forces could be involved in the proposed American military operation;

(b) if so, whether the US envoy can directly meet the Chiefs of Indian Armed Forces to discuss military plan; and

(c) if not, why Government are compromising the sovereign jurisdictional authority of Indian State?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Mr. Robert Blackwill, the US Ambassador to India had, well before the September 11, 2001 incident sought a courtesy call on Admiral Sushil Kumar, Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of Naval Staff which was scheduled for 12 September, 2001. However, consequent to the 11th September incident the call was cancelled. Mr. Robert Blackwill called on Admiral Sushil Kumar on 18th September, 2001. The meeting was a courtesy call where pleasantries were exchanged. During the meeting the Admiral conveyed his sympathies for the victims of the attack on World Trade Centre and Pentagon. No military plans were discussed.

Law to Safeguard the Police Personnel engaged in combating Cross Border Terrorism

1713. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of introducing a law to safeguard the Police Personnel engaged in combating cross border terrorism, naxalism, etc.;